

## **Lithuanian parl't envisages penalties for denial of Soviet, Nazi aggression**

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VILNIUS, Jun 15, BNS - Lithuanian parliamentarians amended the Criminal Code on Tuesday to envisage criminal penalties for supporting, denying or downgrading crimes committed by the Soviet Union or the Nazi Germany.

According to the amendments, those who express public support to the aggression of the Soviet Union or the Nazi Germany against Lithuania, genocide or other crimes against the humanity and war crimes in a threatening, insulting or abusive manner would be punishable by a fine, restriction of freedom or up to two years in prison.

The same punishment would be applied to those who publicly state support, deny or downplay the crimes committed during the 1990-1991 aggression against Lithuania.

Under the changes, legal entities would also be held responsible for the deeds stipulated in this article.

Initiator of the amendments, Vilija Aleknaite-Abramikiene, said the changes were based on the European Union's (EU) obligation to member-nations to take the necessary measures to ensure penalties for public support to genocide crimes, crimes against the humanity and war crimes, as well as attempts to downplay them or refuse to admit such crimes.